

Wichita Environment

Special Interest Articles:

- Animal Control offers suggestions to avoid holiday bites
- Electronic Waste
- Water Center Exhibit Funding
- Useful Phone numbers
- AQ Facts

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❧ 'Tis The Season ❧

The Holidays are upon us. Often we are so busy planning, shopping, and celebrating that we may overlook a family member who is probably not as excited about all the activity that accompanies this season as we are.

For many pets the increase in activities, visitors, strange sights, smells, and sounds can be a very traumatic experience. Often pets are not able to deal well with visiting friends and family. Animal Control statistics indicate that animal bites tend to increase during the Holiday season.

There are some things to remember and simple precautions that pet owners can take during this time of year to insure that the season will be a pleasant experience for everyone.

Make sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations and licenses.

After a bite occurs is NOT the best time to discover that your pet is overdue for their rabies vaccinations.

Find a quiet sanctuary for your dogs or cats during visits or parties.

Garages, utility rooms, basements, or bedrooms are ideal as a safe haven away from noises, visitors and other distractions to your pets routine activities and territory.

All pets have the potential to bite if the right conditions exist.

Remember that even the most docile pet can become startled, disoriented, or feel threatened by all the activity that accompanies the holidays. The key to avoiding animal bites during this hectic

season is to spend a little time thinking about your four footed companions.

If your pet has to be included, keep a close eye on it. Most pets give ample warning signs before a bite occurs. Some common red flags from your pet worth noticing include growling, aggressive barking, tails tucked or standing straight up, trying to hide or get away from people, and the puffed up "I'm really big" stance. If your pet is exhibiting any of these warning signals, it's best to remove it from the situation. Take it for a walk or find a bathroom or bedroom for a "time out". Exit the situation with the pet as soon as possible.

Taking a little extra time to be aware of your pets this holiday season can help you avoid circumstances that can put a damper on any holiday celebration.





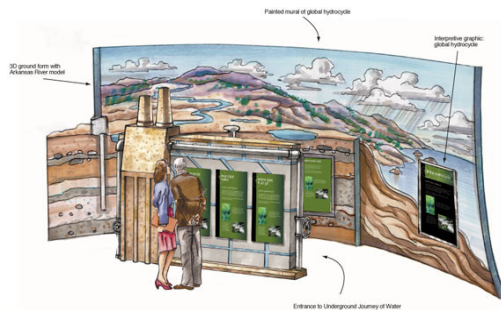
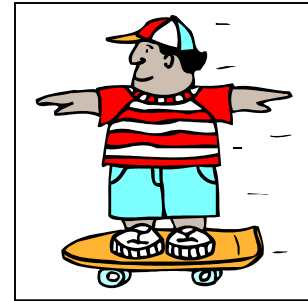
Some common sense precautions can help keep children safe.

Child Care Licensure Recommends Simple Health And Safety Tips To Keep Kids Safe

It's a good idea to periodically evaluate your home for possible hazards to children. A short walkthrough now can avoid a tragedy later.

- Make sure medications, household poisons, and all products with warning labels are inaccessible to children.
- Guns should be kept in locked storage.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working properly
- If you bring in house plants for the winter, are they toxic?

Taking a walk in and around your home occasionally to check for safety issues is a good idea. Remember, our children are our most precious asset.



Artists rendering of the Global Biosphere exhibit designed to explain water's "life cycle" and it's role on the planet.

Water Center Seeks Help With Exhibits

The WATER Center is actively seeing sponsorship and donations for its hands-on, water-focused education displays for the exhibit hall. The interpretive goal of the exhibits is to transport the visitor on a journey of discovery about water, its internal properties, and its unique presence in the biosphere. For additional information or to make a donation, contact Libby Albers at 316-268-8472.

BLT Lovers Rejoice! Myths About Mayo Dispelled

Over 60 years of research has proven commercially prepared mayonnaise does not cause food borne illness.

In fact, these commercial products are carefully prepared with ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice and salt to create an unfriendly environment that inhibits the growth of bacteria.

Commercial mayonnaise and mayonnaise type salad dressings also contain pasteurized eggs that have been heat treated to destroy harmful bacteria and ensure product safety, so chow down!

Useful Phone Numbers

Program Supervisors

Air Quality
John Stark 268-8449

Animal Control
Dennis Graves 268-8407

Animal Shelter
Mary Lilly 838-9625

Child Care
Shirley O'Dell 268-8325

Env. Health Director
Jack Brown 268-8457

Env Assessment
Brian Fisher 268-8466

Env. Compliance Mgr
Kay Johnson 268-8387

Env. Maintenance
Mark Bradshaw 268-8354

Env Services Supv
Roger Smith 268-8418

Food Safety
Ted Cooper 268-8429

Support Staff
Maurine Stickel 268-8357

Water Quality
(Vacant) 268-8440

Did You Know?

Some interesting facts from the Air Quality Section of Environmental Health:

Turning down your water heater thermostat results in a carbon dioxide reduction of 500 pounds a year for each 10-degree adjustment.

Childhood asthma in the U.S. has more than doubled in the last two decades. In 2001, 8.7 percent (6.3 million) of all American children were estimated to have asthma.

Increasing U.S. auto efficiencies by 1 mpg would save more fuel than will be produced from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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Indoor air can be 10 times as polluted as outdoor air.

Cars and trucks cause more pollution than factories.

The average person breathes 35 pounds of air per day.

More wastes are disposed of in the air than in the ground or in water.

The average person breathes 22,000 times per day.

Recycling E-Waste Just Got E-Z

The City has recently entered into a contract with Cartridge Recycling of America, a company located in Valley Center, Kansas. The company is:

Cartridge Recycling
226 W. Main,
Valley Center, Ks, 67147
tel (316) 775-2728

They will provide **City DEPARTMENTS** with a single source for the recycle and/or disposal of all electronic waste (e-waste). The articles collected by the vendor shall be designated as either **disposable** or **recyclable**. The City of Wichita will not be charged for this service.

Disposable items include inkjet cartridges, laser-jet cartridges, copier toner cartridges, type ribbons, fax paper rolls, used cell phones,

paggers and batteries. Disposable items are to be delivered by City personnel to the inter-office mailroom in the basement of City Hall.

Recyclable items include PC's, monitors, keyboards, mice, scanners, copiers and printers. Recyclable items will only be handled by IT/IS staff to allow for proper inventory count. All paper items will continue to be collected in the basement hall area of City Hall.

City Departments may contact Bill Brown at 268-4342 for more information.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wichitaenvironment.org

Environmental Maintenance Welcomes New Employees

Environmental Maintenance has two new staff members who began their training in November.

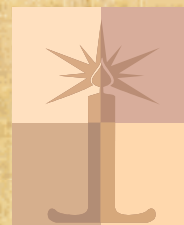
Charles Anderson recently moved to Wichita from Manhattan, Ks. with his wife, Schanee, who is the Curator of Education at the Sedgwick Co. Zoo. Charles has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, Natural Resources & Environmental Science from KSU. (Go Wildcats!) His previous work experience includes working as an engineering aide II for the City of Manhattan for several years, a veterinary hospital manager and as a wildlife damage control technician. His interests include bird watching, woodworking, fishing, hunting, and, of course, **KSU Football**.



Kristie Yeager recently moved to Wichita from Oklahoma City. Kristie has a B.S. in Zoology from University of Oklahoma at Norman, OK. Her previous work experience includes working as a loan assistant with Financial Aid and as a technician with the Oklahoma Wildlife Department. Her interests include traveling, reading science-related articles and spending time with friends and family.



*Happy Holidays
From All Of Us
At Environmental Health*



About Our Department...

The mission of the Department of Environmental Health is *Protecting People... Preserving the Environment*. This mission is realized through our services, programs and projects that focus on environmental monitoring, code enforcement, and education.

